THE LACOLLE CENTRE

for educational innovation

Loyola campus
Concordia University

GOALS AND PURPOSE

The Lacolle Centre for Educational Innovation is an off-campus residential facility located forty miles south of Montreal near Lacolle, Quebec.

It was established by the Loyola campus of Concordia University in 1971, with the stated purpose of extending the university experience by replacing some of the usual restrictions of a classroom setting with an informal, shared community.

This environment is designed to promote the development and understanding of relationships among people, as well as to provide an opportunity to explore new and creative approaches to learning.

The primary goal of the Centre is to insure that its users will, by working collaboratively at Lacolle, discover ways to enhance their educational pursuits on the university campus.

THE FACILITY

The hundred and fifty year old yellow farmhouse occupies twenty acres of lawn and natural woodlot about four miles southwest of Lacolle village.

It accomodates twenty-four people comfortably in four bedrooms furnished with bunk-beds, dressers and closets. There are also two small-group meeting rooms on the first floor, and an upstairs lounge.

The "stone room", which is designed as a large-group meeting area, is carpeted and furnished with comfortable chairs, a blackboard, large work tables and a fireplace.

The kitchen and adjoining dining room are fully equipped, and there are three bathrooms with showers, as well as a heated back room with running water, useable year-round as a laboratory or workshop.

Available at the Centre for recreation are soccer and footballs, board games and playing cards; and we will provide, upon request, a complete stereo unit.

** Potential programs at the Centre are limited only by the imagination and resourcefulness of its users. Creative suggestions for use of weekdays are particularly welcome, as mid-week time slots are usually more available than weekends, especially during the school term. **

PAST AND POTENTIAL PROGRAMS

Each program held at the Centre is designed by the user group on its own, or with the help of the Lacolle staff, to meet the unique needs of the individuals involved. There are, however, several general areas into which many of the programs fall:

Professor and student initiated:
A classroom group spends a weekend or several weekdays at Lacolle in a relaxed atmosphere which extends the time and space of the classroom setting.

Residential courses:
These are regular credit courses which are taught in a concentrated period of time at Lacolle rather than over an extended period at the university.

Organizational use:
Students, Faculty and Administrative groups, as well as total departments use the Centre for program planning, evaluation, problem-solving and team-building.

Lacolle-sponsored programs:
These are planned by the Lacolle staff, and are advertized to all members of the university and surrounding community. In the past, they have included such events as:

- an annual harvest festival (Oct.)
- life and career planning weekends
- training in leadership
- faculty development workshops

APPLICATION PROCEDURES, COSTS AND COMMITMENTS

Four times a year letters are posted on campus and sent to all departments and student associations inviting requests for use of the Centre. Applications should be submitted in writing to the Coordinator, and indicate briefly:

*name of the group making the request
*the dates for which the Centre is being requested (with alternatives)
*the purpose for which the Centre will be used
*possible plans for activities

The Lacolle staff is available to help design programs, plan organizational details (menu, etc.) or as a resource at the Centre during programs.

COSTS:

There is no charge to Concordia students, faculty or staff for the use of Lacolle Centre.

All groups outside of the university are charged on the basis of a sliding scale from $50.00 to $150.00 per day.

COMMITMENTS:

The sharing of responsibility for a Lacolle program is considered to be an important part of the process of establishing group cohesion. Therefore, all user groups are asked to

* arrange for their own transportation
* plan and prepare their own meals
* do a general clean-up before leaving the Centre.

The on-campus office of Lacolle Centre is located at:

2492 West Broadway, Montreal, Quebec

For more information contact:
Marilyn Callan (Coordinator) or
Linda Allan (Office Manager) at
482-0320
ext. 344 or 494